

Healthy LB

RE: Support Rental Assistance Program with Additional Tenant Protections (Agenda Item 11, June 9, 2020 Council Meeting; File 20-0495)

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers:

Thank you for your recent actions to protect my neighbors and neighborhood small businesses from eviction if they aren't able to pay rent during the COVID-19 pandemic. The extension of the eviction moratorium was a critical first step, but it is far from enough to protect my most vulnerable neighbors from falling into homelessness at a time when we all must continue to stay Safer At Home.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated long-standing racial, health, economic, and social inequities in our city and has made already vulnerable communities exponentially more vulnerable. The May 2020 report by the UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy, "UD Day: Impending Evictions and Homelessness in Los Angeles," forecasts a coming avalanche of evictions and homelessness: approximately 120,000 households in LA County, including 184,000 children, are likely to become homeless at least for some period over the next several months. Given this alarming reality, any and all efforts to mitigate the housing catastrophe must lead with preventing mass evictions and homelessness.

I support the City's efforts to establish the Long Beach CARES Rental Assistance Program to assist low-income renters and their landlords, but in order to stabilize myself and my neighbors, any rental assistance must be conditioned on the following:

- A temporary prohibition on rent increases through July 31, 2021**
- A temporary prohibition on all no-fault evictions through July 31, 2021**

Both conditions are needed to prevent bad-actor landlords from taking taxpayer dollars only to turn around and raise rents and/or evict tenants for no-fault reasons such as substantial remodel or relative move-in. My neighbors and other renters across the city have already reported experiencing this kind of harassment. It is in the City's interest to proactively prohibit this abuse of taxpayer dollars, keep vulnerable renters housed, and avoid increasing the number of families falling into homelessness.

Along with requiring additional tenant protections, the City's rental assistance program must be accessible to my neighbors who are low-income, undocumented, and/or have Limited English Proficiency, and the application process must not be so burdensome so as to prevent those who need help the most from applying. Requiring onerous documentation from tenants, including copies of lease agreements, tax returns, W-2s, unemployment benefit letters, cancelled rent checks, etc., is problematic considering many tenants do not have written leases, are denied access to copies of their lease, pay their rent in cash and are not provided receipts, and/or have limited access during the pandemic to their banks which makes retrieving cancelled checks improbable. In addition, many tenants may have an understandable discomfort with providing such personal and private information to the City. Thus, the documentation required should be the minimum necessary to verify the applicant's identity and demonstrate their need.

Finally, the proposed first-come-first-served processing of applications is inequitable and fails to account for the many barriers that my vulnerable neighbors face, including language access and digital access. In accordance with the City's Equity Toolkit, the rental assistance program should "reduce racial, economic, and social disparities to advance equity." Therefore, the distribution of rental assistance funds must be based on both need and the reduction of these deep-rooted disparities.

I urge you to support these critical changes to the proposed rental assistance program, in light of the looming eviction and homelessness catastrophe for our city's renter-majority. During this global pandemic and beyond, until everyone is safe, everyone is at risk.

I am copying the City Clerk so that this letter can be included in the public record as public comment related to Council File 20-0495.

Thank you.

[Signatures attached]

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Agenda Item 11, June 9, 2020 Council Meeting (File 20-0495)

#	Name	Address	City	ZIP code
1	Alison Trowe	1827 East Ocean Blvd	Long Beach	90802
2	Andrew Mandujano	425 Atlantic Ave	Long Beach	90802
3	Dani Blake	100 W 5Th St St	Long Beach	90802
4	diana Ivette norman	321 Cherry Ave	Long Beach	90802
5	Eric Tapia	403 w 4th st	Long Beach	90802
6	Ernesto Analla	1514 East Appleton Street	Long Beach	90802
7	Jedi Jimenez	1043 E. 5th St.	Long Beach	90802
8	John Kindred	338 Elm Ave #5	Long Beach	90802
9	Jordan Wynne	120 Alamitos Ave #22	Long Beach	90802
10	Leanna Noble	115 West 4th Street Unit 401	Long Beach	90802
11	Lee Johnson	62 Pine Ave	Long Beach	90802
12	Manuela Martinez	388 Walnut Ave	Long Beach	90802
13	May Garcia	1835 E 4th st apt 1	Long Beach	90802
14	Samantha Rivas	411 North Virginia Court	Long Beach	90802
15	Sheico Zazueta	1230 E 1st St. apt 5	Long Beach	90802
16	zulma alejo	438 magnolia ave	Long Beach	90802
17	jesse Medina	37 Park Ave	Long Beach	90803
18	Justine Lockerby	37 Park Ave	Long Beach	90803
19	Mariel Fiedler	37 Park Avenue	Long Beach	90803
20	Wayne Marchyshyn	2035 E Broadway	Long Beach	90803
21	Brandon Dumais	1627 junipero ave	Long Beach	90804
22	Gerardo Hernandez	1315 Raymond Ave.	Long Beach	90804
23	Joselyn Saldana	1050 gladys ave apt.3	Long Beach	90804
24	Lian Cheun	1085 Redondo Ave	Long Beach	90804
25	Malina Garcia	1624 1/2 Junipero Ave	Long Beach	90804
26	Maribel Cruz	2307 E. 15th Street	Long Beach	90804
27	Nereyda Hernandez-Torres	1130 Orizaba ave apart. 1	Long Beach	90804
28	Sean Helton	1210 Orizaba Avenue #201	Long Beach	90804
29	Cristina Moran	5789 Chestnut ave	Long Beach	90805
30	Johanna Rodriguez	5635 Linden ave	Long Beach	90805
31	Kimberly Navas	5789 Chestnut ave	Long Beach	90805
32	Larisa Salinas	278 W 68th St	Long Beach	90805
33	LETICIA MIRANDA	2204 POPPY ST	Long Beach	90805
34	Maria Flotar	5789 chestnut ave	Long Beach	90805

35	Berenece Solano	1826 Olive Ave Apt 10	Long Beach	90806
36	Erika Suarez	2241 Earl Ave. #2	Long Beach	90806
37	Eva Calderon	329 E Dayman St. #8	Long Beach	90806
38	Gabriella Marquez	3539 Maine ave	Long Beach	90806
39	Gladys Barajas	1875 Maine Ave	Long Beach	90806
40	Kimberly Garcia	1869 Locust Ave	Long Beach	90806
41	Miriam Mejia	1880 Locust Ave apt :202	Long Beach	90806
42	Pauline Joy Polonia	3059 Oregon Avenue	Long Beach	90806
43	Tania Ovalle-Perez	3037 Golden Ave	Long Beach	90806
44	Anna Howitt	825 E 36TH ST	Long Beach	90807
45	Charlie Chavez	3760 Walnut Ave	Long Beach	90807
46	Daniel Norato Gandarilla	3576 Orange Ave	Long Beach	90807
47	Gabriela Ortiz	3933 N. Virginia Rd. Unit 201	Long Beach	90807
48	Norma Ramirez	230 E bixby rd	Long Beach	90807
49	Chloe Ricks	3938 Carfax ave	Long Beach	90808
50	Julia Dowell	4759 Faculty Ave.	Long Beach	90808
51	Lisa Gathe	3953 knoxvile	Long Beach	90808
52	ALBERTO CANCHE	21502 s.prospecto av	Long bech	90810
53	Desiree Quijano	2377 gale ave	Long Beach	90810
54	Hannah Legaspi	2017 West 29th St	Long Beach	90810
55	Jan Victor Andasan	2448 Santa Fe Ave	Long Beach	90810
56	Kassandra Mar	3116 N Springdale	Long Beach	90810
57	Kimberly Amaya	2516 Caspian Avenue	Long Beach	90810
58	Maria Almaraz	1515w Parade st apt.A	Long Beach	90810
59	mel navas	3081 n springdale dr #93	Long Beach	90810
60	Pamela Amaya	2516 Caspian Ave	Long Beach	90810
61	Robert Bagalawis	2550 Seabright Ave	Long Beach	90810
62	Whitney Amaya	2516 Caspian Ave	Long Beach	90810
63	Alba Gutierrez	758 Rose Ave	Long Beach	90813
64	Alfonso G	1717 Linden Ave	Long Beach	90813
65	Anayensy De La Cruz-Zepeda	921 Cedar Ave	Long Beach	90813
66	Elia Castellanos	1444 pine Av Ap 6	Long Beach	90813
67	Genesis Lares	922 chestnut ave	Long Beach	90813
68	Juana Castellanos	1632 Linden Ave	Long Beach	90813
69	Lorded Tale	1247 Cedar Ave	Long Beach	90813
70	Martha Cota	1635 Locust Ave Apt 303	Long Beach	90813
71	Mayra Zulema Cabrera	1218 Long Beach Blv.ap.1	Long Beach	90813
72	Samera Raqueno	1450 Locust Ave Apt 116	Long Beach	90813
73	Sharon MacNett	638 W 11th Street	Long Beach	90813
74	Vanessa Lopez	755 Martin Luther King Jr Ave	Long Beach	90813
75	Victoria Mackey	1081 Long Beach Blvd	Long Beach	90813
76	Christal Vazquez	4024 E 5th street	Long Beach	90814
77	D Abuyounes	2410 E. 4th St.	Long Beach	90814
78	Gretchen Swanson	621 Coronado Ave	Long Beach	90814
79	Kelli Shelton	4245 E Colorado St	Long Beach	90814

80	Elisabeth Moore	2092 Albury Ave	Long Beach	90815
81	Marilyn Santana	2020 N. Beverly Plaza Apt.211	Long Beach	90815
82	Sandra Kroll	5280 Atherton Street #138	Long Beach	90815
83	Gary Hytrek	6020 east marita st	Long Beach	90840
84	Andrea Antony	1760 Obispo Ave	Long Beach	90894